



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIVE MORE DEFENDANTS INDICTED IN METH CONSPIRACY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that five additional defendants have been indicted by a federal grand jury for participating in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine in Greene County, Mo. They were charged along with four defendants who were previously indicted. Two defendants were also charged with violating federal firearms laws.

Jerry D. Wright, 28, of Seymour, Mo., **Steven T. Moad**, 27, **Rose Laverne Fuqua**, 42, and **Carrol L. Wiles, Jr.**, 27, all of Springfield, Mo., and **Keith A. Webb**, 29, an inmate at Fulton Correctional Facility, were charged in a superseding indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury in Springfield on Aug. 12, 2004. That indictment was unsealed and made public yesterday following the arrest and initial court appearance of **Wright, Moad, Rose Fuqua** and **Wiles**.

Also charged in the superseding indictment are four defendants who were part of the original indictment returned on June 3, 2004: **Ernest H. Fuqua**, 39, of Springfield, **Jackie L. Riddle**, 30, of Bois D'Arc, Mo., **Lloyd R. Colvard, Jr.**, 32, of Pleasant Hope, Mo., and **Spikie Dean Powers**, 42, of Fair Grove, Mo.

The superseding indictment, Graves explained, alleges that the conspiracy involved nine members rather than the four defendants originally charged, and that the conspiracy involved manufacturing in addition to distributing methamphetamine. Charges against the original four defendants remain unchanged, while a forfeiture count has been added against **Moad**.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all nine co-defendants participated in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine in Greene County from January 2002 to June 3, 2004.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Ernest Fuqua** was in possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine in Greene County on March 12, 2002.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Ernest Fuqua** was in possession of pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, in Greene County on March 12, 2002.

Counts Four and Five of the federal indictment are forfeiture counts, which would require **Ernest Fuqua** to forfeit to the government any property derived from the proceeds of the violations alleged in the indictment, including \$1,663 seized from **Ernest Fuqua** on Dec. 5, 2002, and \$3,556 seized from **Ernest Fuqua** on Jan. 13, 2003.

Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Ernest Fuqua** was in possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine in Greene County on April 24, 2003.

Count Seven of the federal indictment alleges that **Riddle** maintained a residence for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine between Feb. 5 and March 13, 2003.

Count Eight is a forfeiture count, which would require **Riddle** to forfeit to the government any property derived from the proceeds of the violations alleged in the indictment, including \$12,930 seized from **Riddle** on Feb. 5, 2003, and \$4,056 seized from **Riddle** on March 13, 2003.

Count Nine of the federal indictment alleges that **Riddle** was in possession of a Marlin .22-caliber rifle, two New England Arms .410-gauge shotguns, a Sears and Roebuck .22-caliber rifle, a Remington .22-caliber rifle, and a Winchester 30-06 caliber rifle, and ammunition, on Feb. 5, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is using or addicted to a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. Today's indictment alleges that **Riddle** is a user or addict of methamphetamine.

Counts Ten, Eleven, Twelve and Thirteen of the federal indictment allege that **Colvard** was in possession of various firearms – including rifles, shotguns, and handguns – on four separate occasions from April 11, 2003, to Jan. 3, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Colvard** has two 1997 convictions for distribution of a controlled substance in Greene County.

Count Fourteen of the federal indictment is an additional forfeiture count, which would require **Moad** to forfeit to the government any property derived from the offense alleged in Count One, including approximately \$3,275 seized from **Moad** on June 4, 2003.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly R. Weber Dean. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Springfield, Mo., Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team) and the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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